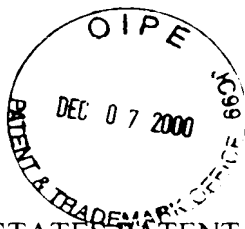


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

Naoko TSUJI, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: WEBER

SERIAL NO.: 09/220,691

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1651

FILED: DECEMBER 28, 1998

:

FOR: METHOD OF INHIBITING  
HAIR GROWTH

:

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action of August 7, 2000, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the following amendment and remarks:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice. Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (Twice Amended) A method of inhibiting hair growth, which comprises topically administering to an affected area of a subject in need thereof an inhibitor of elastase-like enzymes or a neutral endopeptidase inhibitor, wherein said inhibitor of elastase-like enzymes are not a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor.

57. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said inhibitor of elastase-like enzymes or a neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of: